PLAN BELIZE 2.0

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— The Truth Shall Make You Free —

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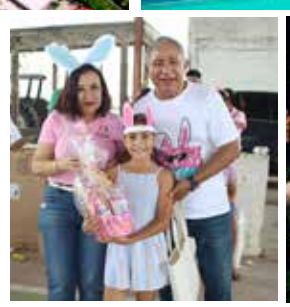
BUSTLING EASTER

Hot Cross Buns-Local Tourism-Tradition

As this week's edition of the Belize Times goes to print there is the usual Easter fervor in the air that is embedded in Belize's rich tradition at this time of year. "Bwoy nuh guh swim, yuh wah turn mermaid", the deliciousness of granny Hot Cross Bun and the reflection of the crucifixion of Christ our Lord. The Belizean tradition is boosted by a bustling economy that is bursting at the seams with job availability, low crime, and the hope that planBelize 2.0, PM John Briceño and team inspire.



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Happy, Blessed and Safe Easter 2025

BELIZEAN EASTER

Bustling with, Religious, Cultural and Economic Traditions

Easter, celebrated globally, is considered one of Belize's longest public and bank holidays. The festivities last throughout the weekend, beginning with Holy Thursday when people begins their travel to various destinations both locally and across borders. Placencia, Hopkins, San Pedro and Caye Caulker and neighboring Chetumal and Cancun in Mexico are the foremost choices. Some Belizeans prefers the quietude of their homes. Good Friday is typically reserved for a time of relaxation and reflection of the day when the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. An alternative to prayer is the watching of spiritual events, such as musical performances and religious movies. Incidentally, the traditional Christians abstain from eating any meat aside from fish and granny hot cross buns. A census of the population revealed that 80% of the Belizean population prescribed to the Christian faith with Roman Catholicism being in the majority. Hot Cross Buns are a major staple on Good Friday. The Buns are intertwined in Belize's history and tradition and as research shows was introduced by the British colonizers. The cross on the buns symbolizes Christ crucifixion. Incidentally, many of the people that peddle their bread and bun business daily are engaged in making the hot cross buns for their economic sustenance.

However, Easter is not confined to religious activities but today it is about family gatherings and community events that bring Belizeans across ethnicities and status together. The Belize City Council under the leadership of Mayor Bernard Wagner organized its annual Hot Cross Bun Festival at the Memorial Park last Sunday. It included the cultural rendition of Mr. Peters Boom and Chime music that had Belizeans entertained, sashaying to the music. There was also an incredible showcasing of the empowered MSMEs. It was a one stop shop for clothing, electronic equipment, plants, food with a flurry of shoppers. A family oriented event included a Kid Zone with foam, face painting, bouncy rides and massive Easter hunt. It is evident that this event is the reflection of the booming economy, and as it relates to the MSMEs and its contributions to the Belizean economy. It is also indicative of the various initiatives implemented through the Office of the Prime Minister to support and enhance the development of the MSMEs. Sarteneja and Belmopan were venues for a massive spiritual concert with the reggae band Christafari. People flocked to event in Sarteneja with an overflowing crowd from neighboring Chetumal and Belmopan was overwhelmed by visitors across the western border. But it was the great display of MSMEs that once again took center stage. Showing of a bubbling economy.

Nonetheless, Holy Saturday will take the cake , as the iconic, 95th annual Holy Saturday Cross Country Classic is set to take place. This thrilling event is dear to the citizens of the Jewel's heart etched in the rich Belizean tradition. On the day there is an outpouring of excited anticipation for the Classic in the wee hours of the morn. The grueling 144 miles from Belize City to Cayo and back, is dear to Belizean hearts. The event brings its own economic activity contributing to the overall economic boost of events for the Easter weekend.

Ultimately, there must be the introspection that Easter is the time that holds a deep spiritual meaning of the faith and a renewal of commitment to the Christian values and the focus on the resurrection and the promise of eternal life. Importantly, there will be a coming together of Belizeans to celebrate the Easter weekend, joining in unity, a reminder of the shared togetherness of family and community. The People's United Party, PM Briceño, DPM Hyde, Chairman Usher, Communications Director Narda Garcia, The PUP Family, The Belize Times, and Vibes Media wish one and all a Happy Easter 2025!

By Hilly Bennett

Junior & Women's Cycling Classics Over

Traditional Holy Saturday Cross Country Next

Easter in Belize also holds deep spiritual and cultural significance. From solemn Good Friday observances to the historic Holy Saturday Cross Country Cycling Classic. On Holy Saturday, the nation turns its attention to the Cross-Country Cycling Classic, a gruelling 144-mile race from Belize City to San Ignacio and back. This event, dating back to 1928, is a source of national pride and excitement, with spectators lining the highways to cheer on the cyclists.

This year, it is the 95th Holy Saturday Garland, and the defending champion Luis Enrique Nolasco Lopez of Honduras, is back to defend his title. We, as Belizeans, have high hopes that this year, one of our own will win and become champion.

We congratulate Ms. Jade Stevens of Major Motions Cycling Team on her impressive victory in the 34th Annual Women's Cross Country Cycling Classic, held on Sunday, April 13th. We also applaud all the women who participated and completed the challenging race — your dedication is inspiring!

A big congratulations as well to Mr. Kevin Rojas, the new 2025 BEL Junior Cross Country Champion.

Top Junior Male Finishers: First place – Kevin Rojas | 2nd – Kaden Sutherland | 3rd – Keith Enwright Jr. | 4th – Ayden Busano | 5th – Jashawn Aldana

Men's Youth Category: 1st – Ahmaad Cherrington | 2nd – Tayeon Chee | 3rd – Yohan Choto | 4th – Kyle McKoy

Women's Junior Category: 1st – Irene Baki | 2nd – Liani Choto | 3rd – Kelsi Castillo

Women's Youth Category: 1st – Liani Choto | 2nd – Kelsi Castillo | 3rd – Jahmelia Gladden

Easter Celebrations Reflect PlanBelize Promise of Community, Culture, and Confidence

From the banks of the Macal River in Santa Elena to the vibrant city of Belmopan and the sun-kissed shores of Corozal, Easter in Belize is more than just a holiday—it is a powerful display of unity, tradition, and economic opportunity that echoes the core vision of PlanBelize.

This year's Hon. Alex Balona Easter River Bash, set for April 19–20 at the Santa Elena Riverside Park, invites both residents and visitors to "hop into the fun". With fun races, games, cash prizes, food, drinks, and safety as a top priority, Hon. Balona and his executive team are delivering more than just entertainment—they are building confidence in community-driven development. "This Easter, it's about everyone—residents and non-residents alike—coming together in joy and celebration."

OW Central EGG HUNT

Easter Joy in Orange Walk! On Sunday, April 13, 2025, the People's Stadium came alive with laughter and excitement during the Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Orange Walk Central and the Orange Walk Town Council. It was a fun-filled day of games, goodies, and giggles that brought families together in true Easter spirit.

A heartfelt thank you to Prime Minister John Briceño, H.E. Rossana Briceño, Mayor Ladrick Sheppard, and the OWTC for making it a memorable day for the children of Orange Walk Central!

Belmopan Easter Egg Hunt Fest 2025

Meanwhile, in Belmopan, His Worship Mayor Pablo Cawich, the Belmopan City Council, and Hon. Oscar Mira are set to host the Easter Egg Hunt Fest 2025 on Sunday, April 20th. Taking place at Sir George Brown Field from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the event promises games, music, a splash pond, vendors, and, of course, the Easter Bunny. "We are creating spaces that foster unity and fun while stimulating the local economy." It is a testament to PlanBelize's trickle-down philosophy, where large national visions empower local celebrations that bring tangible joy to families.

Easter Concert & Beach Bash

Further north, Corozal Town is tuning up for its Easter Concert & Beach Bash at the Chactemal Bayside Plaza. On April 19 and 20, the town will pulse with live performances from Grupo Constelación, Sonora Santanera, and the beloved Gilharry 7 Band. With tickets just $20, this musical spectacle not only promises unforgettable memories but boosts cultural tourism and business for vendors and local artisans.

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The Belize Times

serving Belize since 1957 as the longest continuous newspaper.

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EDITORIAL

BELIZE: THE PLACE TO BE!

From a group of journalists hailing from thirty-plus countries visiting Taiwan, a voice echoed at the dinner table, "Belize is the place to be!" With overnight tourists arriving in Belize in 2024 at 11.8 per cent higher than the previous record year of 2019 and 21 per cent higher than in 2023, Belize is truly inspiring the world to come and unveil its hidden secrets personally. Leading this charge is the world-class entity, The Belize Tourism Board, led by Belizean extraordinaire and Minister the Honourable Anthony Mahler, which is succeeding at the enviable task of showcasing the Belizean Jewel. No brochure, video, or Social Media post or words can wholly describe the natural, cultural, and peerless wonder of the awe-inspiring spaces dotted all over our Central American Caribbean nation. In 2021, at the first Investment Summit, Canada's former Prime Minister Stephen Harper advised the planBelize Government to remain focused, take advantage of the geopolitical position, and become the next trading and distribution hub. Today, four years later, in the face of US tariffs, which have the world in economic angst, Belize is both an internationally awarded tourist destination par excellence and an economic wonder sought for advice. However, there is still so much work yet to be done.

As Easter approaches, the intensified vibes of a 2nd Christmas are palpable in the April wind and baked in by our Easter Sun. There is no GST-free weekend this mid-April, but that does not deter the usual frenzy of preparation. The fish, drinks and chocolates have replaced the ham and turkey. The swimwear, water gear and coolers have replaced the fashion and decoration. The visit to mom, dad, and family is replaced with an itinerary that ends with sunbathing and the imbibing of cooling beverages. There are no stats to compare, but those who live along the highways will give testimony to an exodus from the municipalities to the resorts with swimming pools, riversides, ocean breezes, serene lakes and, of course, to places on the Mexican side. COVID showed Belizeans that Belize is as captivating a place to spend Easter safely as anywhere else. There has been an increase in local tourism and staycations, which has resulted in keeping our dollars at home.

Some constituencies/municipalities organise Egg Hunts and Kiddies Corners for the kids, Easter Concerts and Expos for the adults. A feature at all these events is the impressive array of MSMES with innovative pop-ups ready to serve attendees. The planBelize administration is all in with two MSME Road Shows in each district and similarly impressive ENTRECONS that gathered Belize's innovative entrepreneurial grey matter and increased their capacity. It is no coincidence that every event in Belize is continually enhanced by our women and men offering delicious food and drink varieties, satisfying snacks, decadent pastries, relevant apparel, relevant jewellery and, in general, deals to satisfy consuming Belizeans. The laws passed to increase the incentives to this micro business have been nothing short of economic savvy and social justice. Many of these businesses are registered, thus formally creating jobs, contributing to the historically low three per cent unemployment rates. In the last two weeks, job availability was symptomatic, with job fairs being promoted and organised by businesses that need workers. These commerce organisations are chomping at the bit, waiting at the exit doors for graduates as they enter the Belizean workforce.

Belize is a place to be both for citizens and visitors. The planBelize 2.0 administration is sweeping across Belize in the successful endeavour to leave no issue behind. Our Caribbean and Central American neighbours try to befriend us and assimilate these best practices. The United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America have all taken notice of this small but bustling little country. Many cannot wait to come to retire in Belize. Thank God for this haven of democracy, the consensus of Belizeans and our visiting friends. Prime Minister John Briceño and his team fully know this tremendous responsibility as stewards of precious Belize, the place to be.

en Español

BELICE: ¡EL LUGAR PARA ESTAR!

De un grupo de periodistas procedentes de más de treinta países de visita en Taiwán, una voz resonó en la mesa de la cena: «¡Belice es el lugar donde hay que estar!» Con una llegada de turistas que pernoctarán en Belice en 2024 un 11,8% superior a la del año récord anterior, 2019, y un 21% superior a la de 2023, Belice está inspirando verdaderamente al mundo para que venga a desvelar personalmente sus secretos ocultos. Liderando esta carga está la entidad de clase mundial, La Oficina de Turismo de Belice, dirigida por el extraordinario beliceño y ministro el Honorable Anthony Mahler, que está teniendo éxito en la envidiable tarea de exhibir la Joya Beliceña. No hay folleto, vídeo ni mensaje en las redes sociales o palabras que puedan describir en su totalidad la maravilla natural, cultural y sin igual de los asombrosos e inspiradores espacios que se encuentran por toda nuestra nación caribeña centroamericana. En 2021, en la primera Cumbre de Inversión, el ex primer ministro de Canadá Stephen Harper aconsejó al Gobierno de PlanBelice que se mantuviera centrado, aprovechara la posición geopolítica y se convirtiera en el próximo centro de comercio y distribución. Hoy, cuatro años después, frente a los aranceles estadounidenses, que tienen al mundo sumido en la angustia económica, Belice es a la vez un destino turístico premiado internacionalmente por excelencia y una maravilla económica solicitada para asesoramiento. Sin embargo, aún queda mucho por hacer.

A medida que se acerca la Semana Santa, las vibraciones intensificadas de una 2ª pascua se hacen palpables en el viento de abril y se calientan con nuestro sol de Pascua. A mediados de abril no hay fin de semana sin GST, pero eso no impide el frenesí habitual de los preparativos. El pescado, las bebidas y los bombones han sustituido al jamón y el pavo. La ropa de baño, el equipo de agua y las neveras han sustituido a la moda y la decoración. La visita a mamá, papá y la familia se sustituye por un itinerario que termina tomando el sol e ingiriendo bebidas refrescantes. No hay estadísticas para comparar, pero quienes viven a lo largo de las carreteras darán testimonio de un éxodo de los municipios a los centros turísticos con piscinas, riberas, brisas marinas, lagos serenos y, por supuesto, a lugares del lado mexicano. COVID demostró a los beliceños que Belice es un lugar tan cautivador para pasar la Semana Santa con seguridad como cualquier otro lugar. Se ha producido un aumento del turismo local y de las estancias, lo que ha hecho que nuestros dólares se queden en casa.

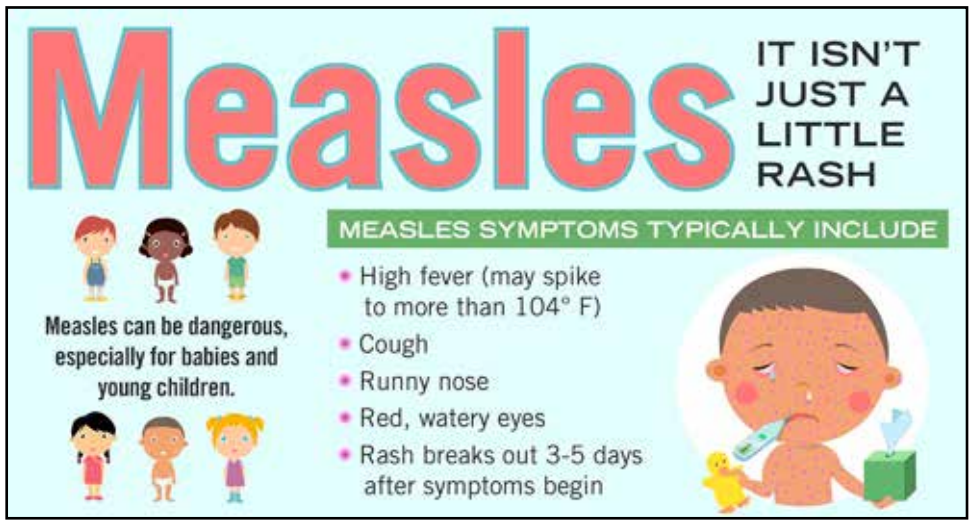
Algunas circunscripciones y municipios organizan cazas del huevo y rincones infantiles para los niños, y conciertos y exposiciones de Semana Santa para los adultos. Una característica de todos estos eventos es la impresionante variedad de MSMES con innovadores pop-ups listos para servir a los asistentes. La administración de planBelice se ha volcado con dos MSME Road Shows en cada distrito y ENTRECONS igualmente impresionantes que reunieron a la materia gris empresarial innovadora de Belice y aumentaron su capacidad. No es casualidad que cada evento en Belice esté continuamente realzado por nuestras mujeres y hombres que ofrecen deliciosas variedades de comida y bebida, tentempiés satisfactorios, pastelería decadente, ropa relevante, joyería relevante y, en general, ofertas para satisfacer a los beliceños consumidores. Las leyes aprobadas para aumentar los incentivos a esta microempresa han sido todo un acierto económico y de justicia social. Muchos de estos negocios están registrados, por lo que crean formalmente puestos de trabajo, contribuyendo a las históricamente bajas tasas de desempleo del tres por ciento. En las dos últimas semanas, la disponibilidad de empleo ha sido sintomática, con ferias de empleo promovidas y organizadas por empresas que necesitan trabajadores. Estas organizaciones comerciales se mueren de ganas, esperando a las puertas de salida a los licenciados que se incorporan a la mano de obra beliceña.

Belice es un lugar en el que estar, tanto para los ciudadanos como para los visitantes. La administración del planBelice 2.0 está arrasando en Belice en el exitoso empeño de no dejar ningún problema atrás. Nuestros vecinos caribeños y centroamericanos intentan hacernos amigos y asimilar estas mejores prácticas. Estados Unidos, Canadá, Europa, Asia, África y Sudamérica se han fijado en este pequeño pero bullicioso país. Muchos no ven la hora de venir a jubilarse en Belice. Gracias a Dios por este remanso de democracia, el consenso de los beliceños y nuestros amigos visitantes. El primer ministro John Briceño y su equipo son plenamente conscientes de esta tremenda responsabilidad como administradores del precioso Belice, el lugar donde hay que estar.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS CONFIRMS TWO MEASLES CASES IN BELIZE

Belmopan, April 13, 2025.

The Ministry of Health & Wellness informs the public of two confirmed positive cases of measles in Belize. The last confirmed case of measles was in 1991. The positive cases were identified in persons from the Corozal and Cayo districts who formed part of a group with a recent travel history to Mexico. Since their return on March 31, 2025, two of the persons developed fever and rash, and samples were collected which confirmed the diagnosis. All persons who travelled in that group remain in isolation at this time, and the ministry continues to monitor for any development of fever and rash.


Measles
IT ISN'T JUST A LITTLE RASH
Measles can be dangerous, especially for babies and young children.
MEASLES SYMPTOMS TYPICALLY INCLUDE
• High fever (may spike to more than 104° F)
• Cough
• Runny nose
• Red, watery eyes
• Rash breaks out 3-5 days after symptoms begin

An estimated 10.3 million measles cases were reported in 2023, and this number continues to increase, with outbreaks currently affecting every region worldwide. Persons who are not vaccinated are at risk of contracting measles while traveling and could unknowingly bring it back home, potentially spreading it to others. In response to the rising number of global measles cases, and the two confirmed cases in Belize, the Ministry of Health and Wellness has increased surveillance efforts for fever and rash symptoms countrywide, and has increased access to the measles vaccine. The vaccine, commonly known as MMR (measles, Mumps, and Rubella), is usually administered to children in two doses – the first at 12 months and the second at 18 months of age.

Measles typically begins with symptoms such as fever, runny nose, red eyes, and a rash that starts at the hairline and spreads down to the chest and back area, limbs, and then to the rest of the body.

While measles is highly contagious, it is preventable through vaccination. We strongly encourage parents and guardians to check their child's vaccination card to ensure that they have received both doses of the measles vaccine.

Anyone who has not been vaccinated against measles, regardless of age, should visit their nearest health facility for more information or to get vaccinated. Persons can reach out to the toll-free number, 0-800-MOH- CARE, if necessary for more information.The Ministry of Health strongly encourages the public to stay alert and report any cases of fever and rash symptoms to the nearest health facility without delay.

The media will be contacted tomorrow for a media briefing to provide more details and any other new information on this situation.

Ends

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, & Solid Waste Management

IMPROVING ON COMMUNICATION

April 10, 2025 - Communication officers from across the various departments and units under the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Solid Waste Management came together to align strategies, streamline efforts, and strengthen collaboration.

This dynamic team plays a crucial role in amplifying the Ministry's impact, crafting messages, sharing stories, and ensuring the public stays informed about the many accomplishments and ongoing initiatives.

They are the voices behind the scenes, working tirelessly to make sure the great work being done is heard, seen, and celebrated. (post)

Junior & Women's Cycling Classics Over

Continued from page 2

Adding flavor to the Easter season was the 2nd Annual Hot Cross Bun & Food Festival in Belize City. Featuring vendors, live worship music, and an intense hot cross bun competition, the event was a successful blend of faith, food, and fellowship. Many thanks to Mayor Wagner and the Belize City Council for their vision in creating a safe and inclusive space that supports small businesses. "This festival represents what PlanBelize is all about—uplifting people, creating opportunity, and celebrating who we are."

Christian Concert Tours Final Night in Belize – One Night Only!

Don't miss the grand finale of Christafari's Belize tour! Join us for a FREE concert on Wednesday, April 16 at 6:30 PM at Digi Park, Belize City. It's the final night of a powerful Holy Week journey that has touched hearts from Orange Walk to Sarteneja, where families crossed land and sea — even from Mexico — to worship together. From Belmopan to San Antonio Cayo, thousands gathered, lives were changed, and the presence of God moved powerfully. Let's make this last stop the biggest celebration yet!

Easter Finale

On Easter Monday events, such as the Castleton Derby in Burrell Boom, encapsulate the nation's soul during the holiday. These nationwide traditions foster not only national pride but a deep-rooted confidence in Belizean identity.

In every game played, every bun baked, and every note of music played this Easter, PlanBelize's vision is alive, proving that when people come together in celebration, the benefits ripple through every layer of society. Belizeans remain committed to growing and improving these events for our cycling community.

CITIZEN SECURITY

CARICOM's Digital Firearms Registration System is Here

April 14, 2025 - The Government of Belize continues to ensure safety and security under planBelize 2.0. Belizeans have taken a major step forward in improving firearm regulation and public safety with the receiving and simultaneous official launch of the CARICOM Integrated Digital Firearms Registration Management System.

Minister Kareem Musa, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Firearms and Ammunition Control Board together witness the handing over, which will digitize vital firearms and ammunition records and enable real-time tracking of all legally imported weapons into the country. The ultimate goal of course if the further reduction of crime which has seen annual decline under the Briceño administration.

Acquiring the system was made possible through collaboration with the U.S. Embassy-Belize, the Caribbean Community's Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS).

Efficiency and efficacy in using the new mechanism will allow for timely digitization of essential firearms and ammunition records, as well as detailed tracking of all weapons that are legally imported into Belize. (release)

Reviewing Draft DNA Legislation Stakeholder Validation Workshop

April 10, 2025 - Today, a national Stakeholder Validation Workshop was held at the Belize Biltmore Hotel to review draft DNA legislation for Belize. The Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, via its National Forensic Science Service, with funding through the PACE Justice Project, has undertaken the drafting of a DNA Bill to strengthen Belize's legislative framework for the utilization of forensic DNA evidence in the prosecution of criminal offences.

The Bill seeks to establish a National DNA Database; provide a framework for the operation of a National DNA Database in order to facilitate the collection and use of DNA samples in the investigation and prosecution of indictable offences; provide for the collection of a DNA sample in a manner that respects a person's bodily integrity, privacy, and dignity and is consistent with human rights values; provide for the management, retention, and destruction of DNA samples and DNA profiles; provide for the investigation of missing persons and unidentified deceased persons; and establish an oversight body for related matters.

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Belize Tax Service (BTS)
Ministry of Finance
Government of Belize

Request for Proposal for Consultancy Services to Design and Execute a Change Management and Communication Strategy and Action Plan
(Firm Selection)

Purpose

The purpose of this consultancy is to develop and execute a results driven Change Management and Communication Strategy to support the seamless transition to a Semi-Autonomous Revenue Authority (SARA).

Specific Objectives of this Consultancy

I. Strategy Development and Execution: design and implement a phased change management and communication strategy with measurable milestones.

II. Stakeholder Engagement: Identify, engage, and maintain relationships with internal and external stakeholders

III. Workshops and Training: Conduct sector-specific workshops and educational campaigns to ensure buy-in and understanding

IV. Evaluation and Reporting: Monitor the progress and impact of initiatives, providing regular feedback and updates.

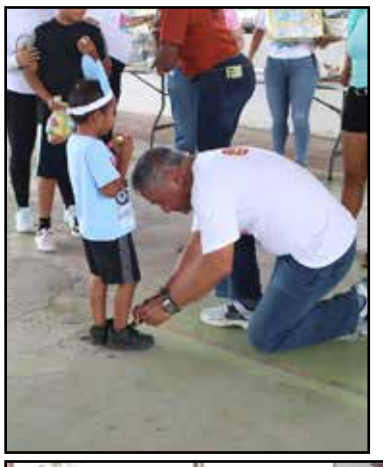
The detailed Terms of Reference for the consultancy can be requested from eddie.herrera@bts.gov.bz. Proposals must be submitted to the Director General of the Belize Tax Service by May 9, 2025 by 10:00 am at Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz.

CARTOON

WHEN WILL YOU GIVE ME THE UDP
I AM THE LOO
I HAVE WON
U CAN'T EVEN WIN ALBERT FAIR
NO BODY KNOW YOU STOP HIDE
BIG DEAL AND ORIGINAR PETTY COMING FOR YOU
THESE TWO CAN'T EVEN BE HAPPY FOR BELIZE

PM Briceño & H.E. Briceño – OW CENTRAL – Mayor Sheppard and Town Councillors

Happy Easter EGG HUNT People's Stadium – April 13



COMMUTERS HOPEFUL

Newly Appointed Transport Board Holds Inaugural Meeting

The maybe 100 thousand strong commuting public will have all eyes on the new transport board. For too long have the bus owners held the commuters and bus riders hostage. "Hostage" because it was obvious via lawyers that they intended NOT to improve their buses in FIVE years. Bus owners took/take advantage of that people have to move and if they don't then their livelihood is on the line.

The Transport Board it is understood would have the commuters in mind. With that said, maybe an addition to the composition of the board is by adding a representative for the commuters, i.e., someone that commutes daily and somehow has the blessing of commuters. Yes, we need stability in the industry. Meeting by Minister Zabaneh with the commuters could render much as well. Minister Zabaneh brings a lot to the table and commuters can be sure that her at this point represents them.

Remains of the UDP in anything is not healthy as that is the reason they were massively voted out and away twice.

Belize is moving ahead in the world and the bus transport system for one needs major uplifting. PlanBelize 2.0 definitely wants to best for the bus owners as well but not at the expense of the safety, health and dignity of the Belizean people.

Release: April 14, 2025 - The Ministry of Constitution & Religious Affairs, Indigenous Affairs, and Transportation is pleased to announce that the newly appointed Transport Board convened its inaugural meeting today, officially assuming duties effective April 14, 2025.

The newly appointed Transport Board members comprise:

1. Joel Cervantes Chairman
2. Debora Jones Deputy Chairperson
3. Clementina Castillo Representative of Private Sector Users of Public Transport
4. Sr. Supt. Calbert Flowers Representative of the Belize Police Department
5. Russell Medina Representative of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
6. Thomas Shaw Representative of the Public Transport Providers
7. Peter Williams Designate Representative of the Chief Transport Officer

Deputy Chief Transport Officer (CTO)

The Honourable Louis Zabaneh, Minister of Constitution & Religious Affairs, Indigenous Affairs, and Transportation, addressed the Board members, articulating his transformative vision for Belize's public transportation system. Minister Zabaneh emphasized the Ministry's commitment to developing an integrated, efficient, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable transportation network that adequately meets the evolving needs of the Belizean people and economy.

Minister Zabaneh expressed confidence in the Transport Board, highlighting their diverse professional backgrounds and extensive expertise, essential for advancing regulatory reforms, enhancing commuter safety, improving service quality, and fostering innovation within the sector.

Also present were Mr. Chester Williams, incoming Chief Executive Officer; Mr. Leon Gentle, Chief Transport Officer; and Ms. Anna Loague, Director of Policy Planning and Research.

The Ministry remains dedicated to collaboratively working with the Transport Board to realize the ambitious goal of establishing a modern, equitable, and future-oriented public transportation system that enhances national development and the daily lives of all Belizeans. (release)

Reviewing Draft DNA Legislation Stakeholder Validation Workshop

Continued from page 5

It is envisioned that a modern legislative framework governing a national DNA database and the application of forensic DNA evidence in the Courts of Law in Belize will improve the outcomes of investigation and prosecution of indictable offences relying on physical evidence, thereby improving the public's confidence in the criminal justice system. Stakeholders that provided input during the consultative process of drafting the DNA Bill include the Judiciary, Magistracy, Attorney General's Ministry, Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, National Forensic Science Service, Belize Police Department, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Belize Central Prison, Ministry of Health and Wellness, and the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous People's Affairs.

The PACE Justice Project's ultimate objective is to enhance the institutional capacities of police forces, prosecutors, lawyers, courts, and prisons in the Caribbean to effectively and efficiently manage criminal cases. To achieve this objective, UNDP and Project partners develop interventions along three well-defined but strongly connected dimensions, which include the deployment of enabling technology and systems, training to improve the efficiency of criminal justice administration, and the empowerment of stakeholders through gender-aware capacity building across all elements of the administration of justice, with a focus on service design and delivery and strengthening national and regional processes and procedures for improved efficiency and accountability within the justice sector. (release)

MOHW Cautions the Public
Local Transmission of Malaria in Belize After Six Years

April 15, 2025 - The Ministry of Health & Wellness informs the public of the recent confirmation of locally transmitted malaria cases in Santa Elena Town and Cristo Rey Village, located in the Cayo District. These cases mark the first instances of local transmission in over six years, a significant development in the country's efforts to prevent the re-establishment of malaria.

Malaria is a febrile disease caused by parasites, transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected Anopheles mosquito. Infected individuals typically experience episodes of fever with chills and sweating every 48 to 72 hours.

The initial case was detected on January 17, with additional cases detected on March 11 and April 5. Of the four confirmed cases in 2025, three are attributed to local transmission, and one is classified as imported from Petén, Guatemala.

The cases were detected through routine surveillance at both public and private healthcare facilities. In response, the Vector Control Program, in collaboration with regional health surveillance officers, has implemented several measures, including:

- House-to-house fever screening
- Mosquito control activities, such as fogging and larviciding
- Community awareness campaigns to educate residents on symptoms and prevention.

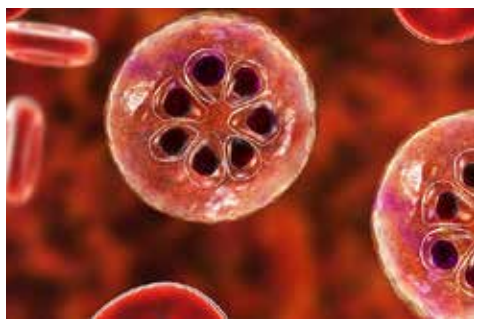
All identified patients received appropriate supervised medical treatment and tested negative upon follow-up.

Enhanced surveillance has been activated along the Western border, particularly in the Santa Elena neighborhoods of Santa Cruz and Hillview, as well as Cristo Rey Village. The Ministry is actively testing individuals who currently have, or recently had, a fever within the past 30 days.

Residents presenting with fever and chills, especially those who have traveled to neighboring countries within the past 30 days, are urged to visit the nearest health facility for free malaria testing.

The Ministry reminds the public of the importance of preventing mosquito bites and encourages the use of insect repellent for persons travelling to neighboring countries. Using bed nets, maintaining clean surroundings, and eliminating standing water around homes are also encouraged.

While this development is of concern, Belize remains committed to maintaining its malaria-free status, which was first achieved in June 2023. (release)



Notice of Employment:

Dr. Amin Hegar of Belize Vision Center has an available post for a Retinologist eye specialist to practice at his clinic at # 9 Daly Street, Belize City. Call 610-2293 for more information.

NORTHERN MEDICAL Specialty PLAZA

ORCHID DRIVE, B.S.I. AREA,
ORANGE WALK TOWN, BELIZE
PHONE: 302-3708

Northern Medical Plaza invites applications from experienced, dynamic, energetic, self-motivated professionals for the following vacancy of

GYNECOLOGIST/OBSTETRICIAN
INTENSIVE CARE SPECIALIST

Qualification:
Medical Degree
Valid license from the Belize Medical Council.
Knowledge &Skills
Excellent communication skills both written and oral.
Bilingual

Applications close: May 14th, 2025.
Please submit application letter and three References to:
northernmedicalhrdept@gmail.com
General Manager
Northern Medical Specialty Plaza Ltd.
Orchid Drive, BSI Area
Orange Walk Town

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

BWSL AT HIGH-LEVEL CARIBBEAN MEETING INVITED TO JOIN EXCLUSIVE "GROUP OF 300 WATER LEADERS"

Attending 2025 Global Water Summit in Paris

By Hilly Bennett

There has been a paradigm shift in the operations of Belize Water Services (BWS) since Prime Minister John Briceño made some surgical appointments to offices such as at the BWS upon taking office in 2020. Particularly, in the water and sanitation sector, under the leadership of the Executive Chairman, Cornelio Acosta. A leadership that has cemented BWS's reputation as a regional leader in the respective area.

On April 6th-8th, 2025, Belize was represented and featured in two high-level regional meetings in Barbados. The meetings, which were hosted by CAF - the Development Bank for Latin America and the Caribbean in collaboration with the Government of Barbados brought together key stakeholders to explore solutions for creating a more resilient and sustainable future in water and sanitation across the Caribbean. On the first day, April 6th, the Executive Chairman, Cornelio Acosta engaged in a strategic meeting with top officials and the water sector officials. In attendance were the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley; Mr. David Wright, Chairman of the Barbados Water Authority (BWA), Hon. Dr. Dodridge Miller, FB, Deputy Chairman, BWA; Mr. Christopher Mapp, Acting CEO BWA; Charles Leslie, Director of Engineering, BWA; and Ms. Gillian Applewhaite, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's office with responsibility for water. This meeting was focused on collaborative efforts between Belize and Barbados in the areas of water and wastewater management, capacity building and knowledge sharing. Thereafter, Chairman Acosta attended a regional water and sanitation conference, which included representatives from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), World Bank and CEOs from water utilities across the Caribbean. During this meeting, the discussions were on key topics from the current state of the sector to emerging challenges and strategies for advancing water management through automation, systemization, and data-informed decision-making. Acosta shared insights on Belize's experience in overcoming sector challenges and implementing significant improvements in water service delivery.

In an interview with Vibes Media, Executive Chairman Cornelio Acosta highlighted some of the major achievements and plans for the continued development of BWS's operations. Since the appointment of Cornelio Acosta to the post of Executive Chairman, there has been a reduction in non-revenue water to 22%, and the implementation of the GIS Maintenance Plan. GIS (Geographic Information System) refers to the framework for managing, analyzing, and visualizing geospatial data related to utility infrastructure including power lines, pipelines, and water distribution networks. It assists in asset management, planning, and operations, ultimately improving efficiency and reduction of costs. BWS is also pursuing an ISO (International Organization for Standardization) accreditation for Belize's water labs. ISO accreditation would demonstrate BWS's commitment to consistent quality, efficiency and reliability in Belize's water service utility, which enhances the trustworthiness of the company.

Within the scope of BWS's future undertakings is the plan to create redundancy distribution lines and water sources to remove the dependence on a single source such as in the case of Belize City. Additionally, the increase in storage capacity to the international benchmark of three days and the erecting of storage facilities at all of BWS sites. Embedded in its plans is the introduction of smart metering and the implementation of renewable energy at various BWS plants thereby reducing reliance on energy from Belize Electricity Limited (BEL). Other notable achievements included 24-hour water continuity, leading the Caribbean in a reduction in water loss, and strong financial performance. Achievements that can be considered as the impetus for the Barbados Water Authority visit to Belize in the coming weeks. The BWA delegation will be exploring, operational best practices, innovation projects, and water security measures successfully Implemented by BWS.

In recognition of its continued leadership and impactful leadership, BWS has received an invitation from Global Water Intelligence to attend the 2025 Global Water Summit in Paris, and will be joining the exclusive "Group of 300 Water Leaders". This International network brings together utility CEOs from across the world who are driving progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6): Clean Water and Sanitation for All. The invitation affirms BWS's reputation as a regional leader in Water Sector Management in the Caribbean. A leadership that has cemented BWS's reputation in the development of its operations and service delivery as a utility company. Leadership that leads!

Ministry of Rural Transformation
Community Development, Labour and Local Government

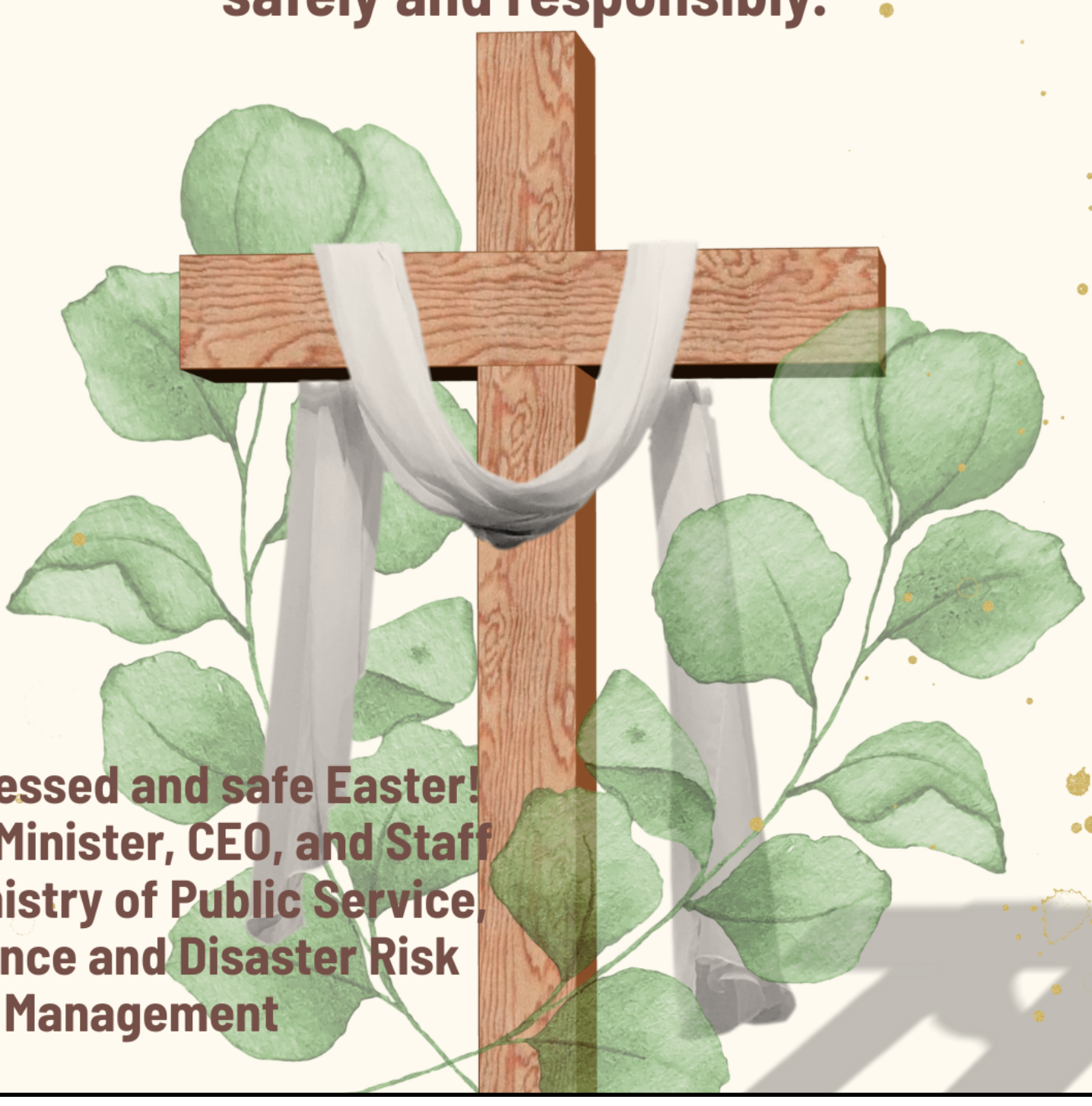
WISHING YOU A

HAPPY EASTER

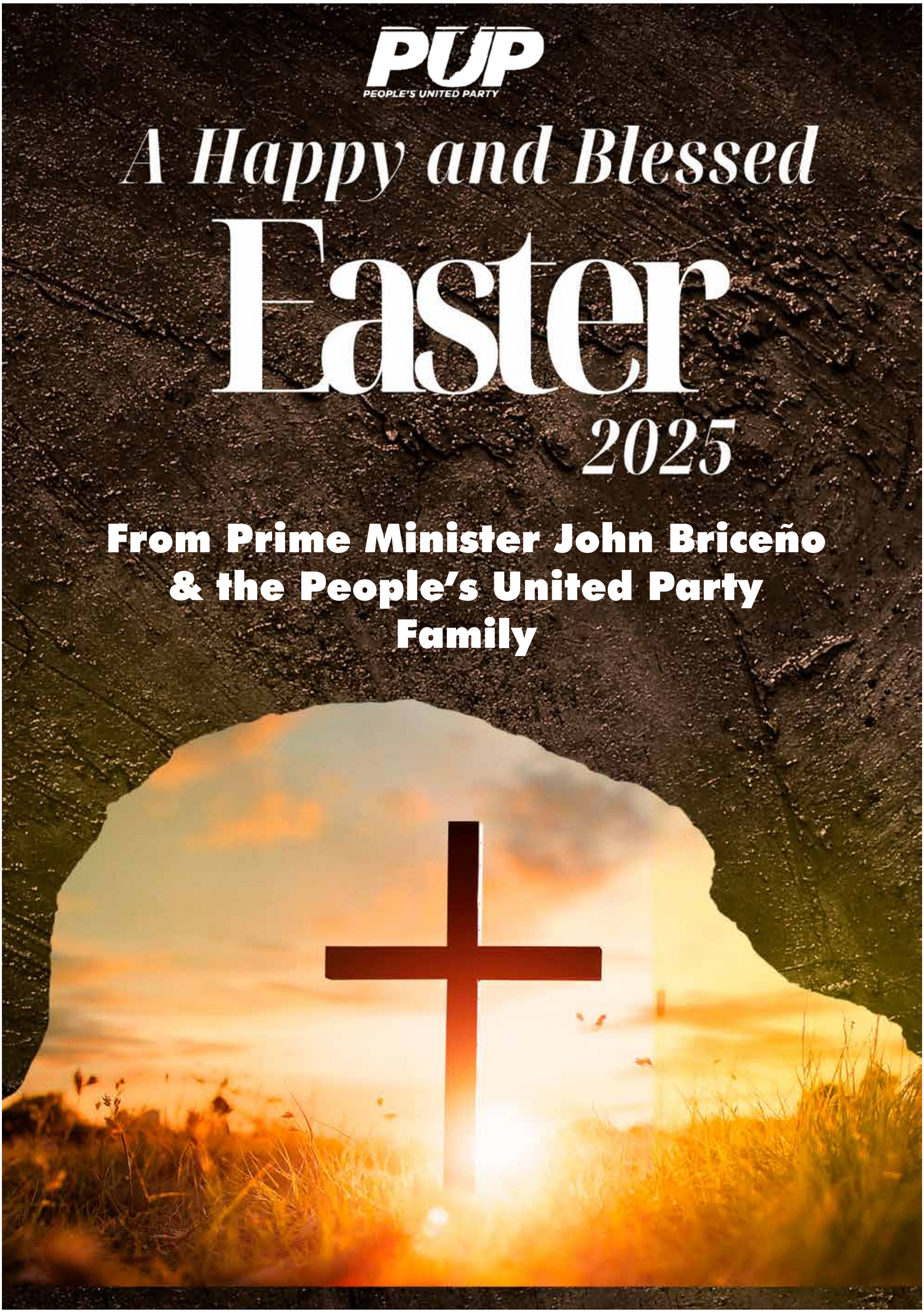
From Hon. Florencio Marin, CEO Valentino Shal, and the entire staff of the MoRTCDLLG.
May this Easter bring you and your loved ones moments of peace, reflection, and happiness.

THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, GOVERNANCE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

As we commemorate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Ministry extends heartfelt Easter blessings to all Belizeans.
May this sacred season fill your hearts with peace, hope, and renewal.
As you gather with loved ones, travel, or take part in Easter traditions, please do so safely and responsibly.



Have a blessed and safe Easter!
From the Minister, CEO, and Staff of the Ministry of Public Service, Governance and Disaster Risk Management


PUP
PEOPLE'S UNITED PARTY
A Happy and Blessed
Easter
2025
From Prime Minister John Briceño
& the People's United Party
Family

HE IS Risen

Belize is a nation rich in faith, family, and community.

As we celebrate the resurrection of Christ this Easter, let us be reminded of the strength we find in each other, and the blessings we share as one people under God.

In reflecting on Christ's sacrifice and triumph over the grave, we are also inspired by His enduring example of service, unity, and peace. These same values are embodied by the brave men and women of our national defence forces, whose strength and resilience allow them to stand firm in their commitment to the safety and security of our beloved nation. We give heartfelt thanks to the unwavering dedication.

May the promise of Easter renew our hearts with hope, strengthen our bonds as a people and guide us in the spirit of peace and service.

Happy Easter, Belize

FROM THE MINISTRY OF
NATIONAL DEFENCE & BORDER SECURITY

BELIZE DEFENCE FORCE · SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

BELIZE COAST GUARD · UTRINQUE PARATUS

PlanBelize 2.0

Office of PM Briceño's BELTRAIDE

One Belize, One Purpose: Ecosystems For Life" At Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan

Capital City Belmopan – Hon. Mira and Mayor Cawich

Celebrating Easter

Hon. Marconi Leal, Jr – Belize Rural Central

Discussing Sport's Safety for better enjoyment

Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez – Corozal Bay at House of Culture

Support Handmade in Belize, first in Corozal

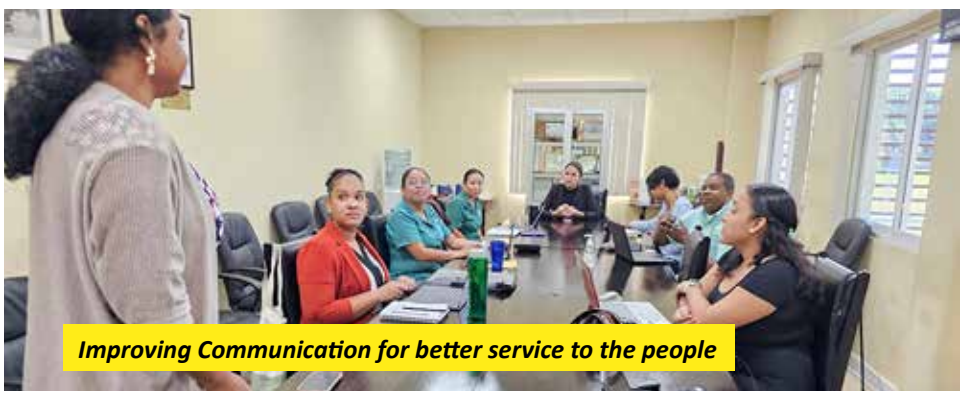
Hon. Henry Charles Usher, Fort George visiting Corozal North

Supporting sport and our villages

Min. Florencio Marin (Corozal Southeast) - Local Government

At High-Level Caribbean Labour Meeting

Sustainable Development & Climate Change – Hon. Landy Habet (Cayo Northeast)



Improving Communication for better service to the people

Min. Andre Perez (Belize Rural South) – Blue Economy at work

Innovative skimming of Sargassum before if arrives at beaches

Min. Julius Espat, MIDH ALL OVER BELIZE

Preparation of Cross Country Cycling on George Price Highway

Mountain Pine Ridge Cayo

Joseph Andrews Drive in San Ignacio

San Marcus in the Toledo District

GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

Sarteneja Village, Progresso Village, Warree Bight, Corozal Town, Buena Vista Corozal District; San Estevan Village, San Lazaro Village, Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District; Crooked Tree Village, Belize District; Belmopan City, Cayo District; Sarawee Village, Middlesex Village, Stann Creek District; Boom Creek Road, Toledo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Development Finance Corporation, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.

A: COROZAL DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 778/1 Sarteneja Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Sarteneja	3	778/1
The leasehold property of Mr. Andrew Mark Bowman.		

2. Parcel No. 716 Progresso Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Progresso	1	716
The freehold property of Ms. Marion Margaret Lamb surety for Mr. Norlan Absolon Lamb.		

3. Parcel No. 129/1 Progresso Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ann Gabourel	4	129/1
The leasehold property of Mr. Eleuterio Patt and Mr. Mainor Abner Patt surety for Mainor Abner Patt.		

4. Parcel No. 769/1 Warree Bight, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Warree Bight/ Freshwater Cree	3	769/1
The leasehold property of Mr. Johan Wall.		

5. Parcel No. 86/1, Buena Vista Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Buena Vista	1	86/1
The freehold property of Mr. Crisanto Cristino Ewan surety for Mr. Valerio Rene Lopez.		

6. Parcel No. 1033 F Street South, Corozal Town, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal Central	1	1033
The freehold property of Mr. Benjamin Jose Antonio Acosta.		

B: ORANGE WALK DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 603/1 San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Estevan	1	603/1
The leasehold property of Ms. Hortencia Yanella Chan & Mr. Rosendo Melvin Chan.		

2. Parcel No. 333/1 San Lazaro Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Lazaro	4	333/1
The leasehold property of Mr. Pablo Tun surety for Mr. Roger Pablo Tun and Mr. Pablo Tun		

3. Parcel No. 1013 Pucte Villas, Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ann Gabourel	4	1013
The freehold property of Ms. Nellie Felipa Briceno & Jairo Zadir Campos (Jointly) surety for Jairo Zadir Campos.		

C: BELIZE DISTRICT:

1. 49.99 Acres Crooked Tree Road, near Mile 32 Phillip Goldson Highway, Belize District:

All that piece or parcel of land containing 49.99 Acres situated on the Crooked Tree Road near Mile 32 Phillip Goldson Highway, the freehold property of Mr. Madu Odhermal Babani.

D: CAYO DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 9706 New Era Development Area, Belmopan, Cayo District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Belmopan	20	9706
The freehold property of Ms. Jenna Karina M. Baide, Roberto Alvaro Bautista and Regina Mary Baide surety for Jenna Karina M. Baide & Roberto Alvaro Bautista.		

E: STANN CREEK DISTRICT:

1. 404.550 S.M being Lot No. 165 & 166 in Sarawee Village Stann Creek District:

All that piece or parcel of land being Lot. 165 situate in Sarawee Village, Stann Creek District, the freehold property of Ms. Marion Margaret Lamb surety for Mr. Norlan Absolon Lamb.

All that piece or parcel of land being Lot. 166 situate in Sarawee Village, Stann Creek District, the freehold property of Ms. Marion Margaret Lamb surety for Mr. Norlan Absolon Lamb.

2. Parcel No. 3257 Middlesex Village, Hummingbird Highway, Stann Creek District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Middlesex Village	28	3257
The freehold property of Ms. Teresa Isabel Hernandez.		

E: TOLEDO DISTRICT:

1. 310.34 Acres along the North Side of Boom Creek Road, Toledo District:

All that piece or parcel of land containing 310.34 Acres in Boom Creek Rd, Toledo District, the freehold property of Mr. Santos Aparicio Alegria surety for Mr. Santos Aparicio Alegria & Ms. Yencer Dany Alegria.

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

DFC FINANCING AVAILABLE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS

Belize Premier Basketball League Get FIRST Commissioner

Monday, April 14, 2025 – The Belize Premier Basketball League (BPBL) is proud to announce the official appointment of Mr. Claudio C. Leal as the FIRST Commissioner. In a formal presentation on their website and social media platform, Mr. Leal was introduced as the visionary leader poised to enhance the integrity, competitiveness, and overall growth of professional basketball in Belize.

Mr. Leal brings a wealth of diverse experience and proven leadership to the role. With over three decades of public service, he has served in critical capacities at the Public Utilities Commission, held leadership roles in educational and regulatory bodies, and been an active contributor at international conferences. His impressive academic background includes a Master of Arts in Christian Studies from Wesley Biblical Seminary and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management from Colombia Southern University, complemented by specialized certification in Regulation and Utility Management.

As Commissioner, Mr. Leal will oversee league-wide operations, enforce policies, and guide strategic decisions aimed at fostering sustainable growth. His role will be pivotal in coordinating with various operational, disciplinary, and executive committees to ensure that league events run seamlessly and competitive standards continue to evolve. The Commissioner's Office is further strengthened by the expertise of two distinguished basketball professionals: First Deputy Mr. Francis Arzu, a key figure from the two-time BEBL Champions Belize Hurricanes, and Second Deputy Amir Garcia, a former outstanding basketball player with substantial management experience in Football. Their combined experience reinforces the office's capacity to elevate player welfare, game-day excellence, and operational efficiency.

"I am honored to accept this role," Mr. Leal stated during the presentation. "I look forward to working with all stakeholders—team owners, coaches, players, and fans—to build a brighter future for Belizean basketball. Together, we will drive the BPBL to new heights and set unprecedented benchmarks for success."

The BPBL expresses its confidence in Mr. Leal's vision and leadership to elevate the league's profile both locally and internationally, ensuring that Belizean basketball remains a source of national pride and community engagement.

FOR SALE
BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE

The Development Finance Corporation of Bliss Parade, City of Belmopan, Cayo District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as mortgagee under Deed of Mortgages or Charges between those hereinafter named and the said Corporation which mortgages or charges are recorded at the Land Titles Unit or the Lands Registry, respectively and that the said Development Finance Corporation will, at the expiration of two (2) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, sell the properties described in the Schedule hereto.

All offers to purchase the said properties must be made in writing to the said Corporation at its Headquarters Office or District Offices.

SCHEDULE

Parcel No. 1634, Block No. 20, Belmopan Registration Section containing approximately 0.1377 acres situate in the City of Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize, held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of MELVIN ANDREW GILLETT.

Parcel No. 6779, Block No. 16, Ladyville/Lord's Bank Registration Section containing approximately 0.13 acre(s) situate in the Los Lagos Area, Ladyville Village, Belize District, Belize, held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of ORLANDO HUMPHREY WAGNER

All that piece or parcel of Land being Lot No. 2 containing 0.95 acres situate along the Philip Goldson Highway near Mile 16.5 Sandhill Village, Belize District, Belize, and being more particularly shown on Entry No. 15484, Register No. 13, held under a Deed of Conveyance being the freehold interest of RAFAEL YAMANY GONGORA & SONIA JEX.

DATED THIS 8TH DAY OF APRIL 2025

VACANCIES
The Ministry of Health & Wellness invites applications of suitably qualified persons for:
Practical Nurses
Punta Gorda Community Hospital
Toledo District
Southern Regional Hospital
Stann Creek District
Northern Regional Hospital
Orange Walk District
Dr. Otto Rodriguez Polyclinic
San Pedro Town, Belize District
Palm Center Long Term Care
City of Belmopan, Cayo District
Requirements:
Certificate in Practical Nursing
Valid Practical Nurse License
Valid Social Security Card
Birth certificate or passport bio page
Resume
Deadline May 15, 2025
Send resume and supporting documents to: informationofficer@health.gov.bz Or drop them off at the Ministry of Health & Wellness:
Ms. Lizett Bell
Chief Nursing Officer
Ministry of Health & Wellness
Government of BELIZE

CALL
280-8385 or
EMAIL:
belizetimesadvertisement@yahoo.com
To place advertisement in the Belize Times Newspaper

Belmopan's Autism Awareness

"Kindness in Action, Understanding Autism, Building Community,"

On Saturday, April 12th, the City of Belmopan came together in a powerful show of love and unity for the 2025 Autism Walk — raising awareness and standing in solidarity with families and friends living with autism.

The walk, followed by a fun day at Mae Gordon Park, reminded us all of the strength in community and the importance of inclusion.

This year's theme, "Kindness in Action, Understanding Autism, Building Community," was beautifully reflected in every step, smile and shared moment.

His Worship, Mayor Pablo Cawich, Councillors and the Belmopan City Council wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the dedicated employees of the Belmopan City Council, and to everyone who showed up and participated — your presence made a difference.

Special thanks to Mrs. Christy Castillo Almeida, Founder of Autism Belize, for her continued partnership and unwavering advocacy.

Together, Belmopan is building a kinder, more inclusive city. (BCC Post)

Belize National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let Your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives.

With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the

observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and, in that peace which the world itself cannot give.

And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.

Amen.

BELIZE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES LTD.
Fi WE Boledo!

March 20, 2025

Public Notice

Relocation of Live Boledo, Ordinary & Jackpot Lottery Drawings

The Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. hereby advises the public that effective Sunday, April 27, 2025, the LIVE drawing of the Belize government lottery games; including Boledo, Ordinary Lottery and Jackpot Lottery will be relocated to the City of Belmopan.

The administrative office and all staff of the Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. are located in Belmopan. As a result, the relocation is being carried out to increase efficiency as well as to reduce the risk for the suspension of any future drawings due to the vulnerability of hurricanes and flooding in Belize City.

Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. assures the public that all protocols will continue as per usual. These protocols include:

- Weighing of balls before and after each drawing

- Witnessing of ball weighing by an auditor from the auditing firm of Coye & Associates as well as an officer from the Treasury Department or other Senior Public Service Office to ensure that the weights are within the acceptable weight range as per international guidelines

- Conducting of drawings by supervisory personnel from the Treasury Department or other Senior Public Service Officers.

- Witnessing of drawing by an auditor representing the auditing firm of Coye & Associates

- Live broadcast by Love FM

The new drawing office will be located inside the Emporium Plaza located at Cor. Rio Grande & Nim Li Punit Street, Belmopan City. Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. further reminds the general public that anyone wishing to attend and witness the live public drawings are always welcome to do so.

Fi we Fun, Fi we Profits, Fi we Boledo

www.lotteries.bz

BDF OPENS NEW COMMISSARY AT PRICE BARRACKS!

OPENS NEW COMMISSARY AT PRICE BARRACKS!

"I am sure that this commissary will go a long way towards boosting the morale of our armed forces! Well done team! - Hon. Oscar Mira, Minister of National Defence and Border Security

Tuesday April 8th, 2024 - The Belize Defence Force is working for all it soldiers attested by the announcement of the official opening of a commissary at its Price Barracks compound thereby offering good free most taxes to its officers as well as members of the Belize Coast Guard and Police.

The department said that, "The store is a crucial step toward enhancing the welfare and morale of our troops, providing accessible goods at duty-free prices to support the daily lives of our hardworking security forces."

"We are deeply grateful to the Ministry of National Defence and Border Security, as well as the Ministry of Finance, for their unwavering support and commitment to making this much-needed endeavor a reality. Their combined efforts have created a space that not only meets essential needs but also strengthens unity, community, and the overall well-being of our dedicated personnel," - BDF press release.

Curbing the cost of living is a planBelize 2.0 constant. This commissary is a giant step in that direction. Note: Elections have just gone by! The Briceño government serves the people for the FULL term. Definitely this is keeping Right Pan Track!

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

EXAMINER-IN-CHARGE, OFF-SITE SURVEILLANCE

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Supervision Department.

The Examiner-in-Charge, Off-site Surveillance, will lead and supervise an assigned team and ensure the timely execution of the off-site surveillance programme for a portfolio of supervised institutions.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Supervise members of the off-site surveillance team.
- Assist in developing operational plans for the off-site surveillance of supervised institutions, based on a risk-based framework.
- Review assessment reports on compliance with the provisions of the Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act (DBFIA), International Banking Act (IBA), Credit Unions Act (CUA), Moneylenders Act (MLA), National Payment System Act (NPSA), and the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act (MLTPA) and their accompanying Regulations and Guidelines.
- Review and process applications for the licensing and registration of banks, credit unions, money lenders, payment service providers, and other supervised institutions in accordance with the relevant licensing and registration regime.
- Prepare periodic reports for submission to the Board and other stakeholders on the financial status, performance, and regulatory status of licensed institutions.
- Review the off-site surveillance team's analyses of the assigned institutions' audited financial statements and advance recommendations for actions.
- Assist with drafting instructions to guide the development of regulations, practice directions, circulars, and guidelines to be issued under the DBFIA, IBA, CUA, MLA, and NPSA.
- Take appropriate actions to ensure that corrective actions arising from on-site examinations are addressed by licensed institutions.

The applicant should possess the following:

Education And Experience

- Preferred qualification: a master's degree in accounting, banking, finance, or economics from a recognised university, with at least five years of relevant experience in the supervision and regulation of financial institutions.
- A minimum of a bachelor's degree in accounting, banking, finance, or economics from a recognised university with at least seven years of relevant experience.

Technical Knowledge

- Familiarity with the Central Bank of Belize Act, DBFIA, IBA, CUA, MLA, NPSA, and their accompanying Regulations and Guidelines; Strong supervisory skills; Knowledge of international best practices and standards recommended by relevant standard-setting bodies; and Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite.

Competencies

- Analytical Ability, Communication, Customer Focus, Digital Ability, Initiative, Interpersonal Relations, Organisational Ability, Problem Solving/Judgement, Decision Making.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 16 April 2025:**

- Central Bank Employment Form (available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates
- Two (2) current references (one must be from a previous employer)

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
P O Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Examiner-In-Charge, Off-site Surveillance- Supervision Department

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

INVITATION OPEN

Handmade by Belize has officially arrived in Corozal Bay!

The Orange Economy is booming and there is no time like Easter time to showcase it as people from all over the world are making do with the reality that Belize is the place to be! The Orange Economy is very successful due to the immense talent oozed out of our diverse culture called Belizean which respectfully bonds Garifuna with Mestizo with Creole with Mennonite with East Indian with Chinese with European with modern and with the world. Belizeans can all recognize the richness of our individual ethnic groups who are sprinkled inexorably by today's multicultural Belize. Visit and observe any artisan display in Belize and let the discussion rule.

The National Tour of Handmade by Belize kicked off at the Corozal House of Culture on April 11! The National Institute of Culture and History invites: "Join us as we celebrate the creativity and craftsmanship of our local artisans. This exhibition is open to the public, offering a unique opportunity to experience Belize's rich cultural heritage through handmade art."

"It is an absolute honor to welcome this incredible national exhibition to the Corozal House of Culture. This showcase is a true testament to the talent, creativity, and rich cultural heritage of our Belizean artisans.

A heartfelt thank you to Kim Vasquez – Director of the Institute of Creative Arts, Ilona Smilin – Director of the Museum of Belize and Houses of Culture, MOFA, NICH, ICA, BTB and the dedicated team behind this initiative: Mr. Gilvano Swayze, Aajra Samuels, Mrs. Angelita Magana, and our very own Ms. Zeidi Vellos. Your passion and commitment to the arts continue to uplift and inspire our communities.

I invite everyone to visit, explore, and celebrate the craftsmanship that makes Belize so unique. The exhibit will be here at home for 2 weeks. Let's continue to support our artisans and preserve the beauty of our heritage." – Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez post

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

EXAMINER-IN-CHARGE, ON-SITE EXAMINATION

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Supervision Department.

The Examiner-in-Charge, On-Site Examination, will lead and coordinate the work of the on-site team in conducting examinations and assessment of the business conditions, operations, and risk management at supervised institutions.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supervise the examination team to ensure proper execution of the on-site examination plans and activities.
- Ensure that on-site examinations are conducted in accordance with the standards and guidelines.
- Assist with preparing and executing learning and development plans for the on-site examination team members.
- Review on-site examination processes and procedures, and provide advanced recommendations for improving efficiency and effectiveness.
- Assess the profitability, financial conditions, and effectiveness of the board and management of the licensee.
- Review current developments and future directions of various risks faced by licensees and assess the effectiveness of risk management.
- Summarise the significant findings of the on-site examination for presentation during exit meetings with management of the licensees.
- Assist with coordinating and preparing for meetings with Central Bank Executive to discuss on-site examination findings.
- Preparing reports on examination findings and recommended ameliorative actions.

The applicant should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Preferred qualification: a master's degree in accounting, banking, finance, or economics from a recognised university, with at least five years of relevant experience in the supervision and regulation of financial institutions.
- A minimum of a bachelor's degree in accounting, banking, finance, or economics from a recognised university with at least seven years of relevant experience.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Familiarity with the Central Bank of Belize Act, Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act, International Banking Act, Credit Unions Act, Moneylenders Act, National Payment System Act, and the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act, and their accompanying regulations; Strong supervisory skills; Knowledge of international best practices and standards recommended by relevant standard-setting bodies; and proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Analytical Ability, Communication, Customer Focus, Digital Ability, Initiative, Interpersonal Relations, Organisational Ability, Problem Solving/Judgement, Decision Making.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 16 April 2025:**

- Central Bank Employment Form (available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates
- Two (2) current references (one must be from a previous employer)

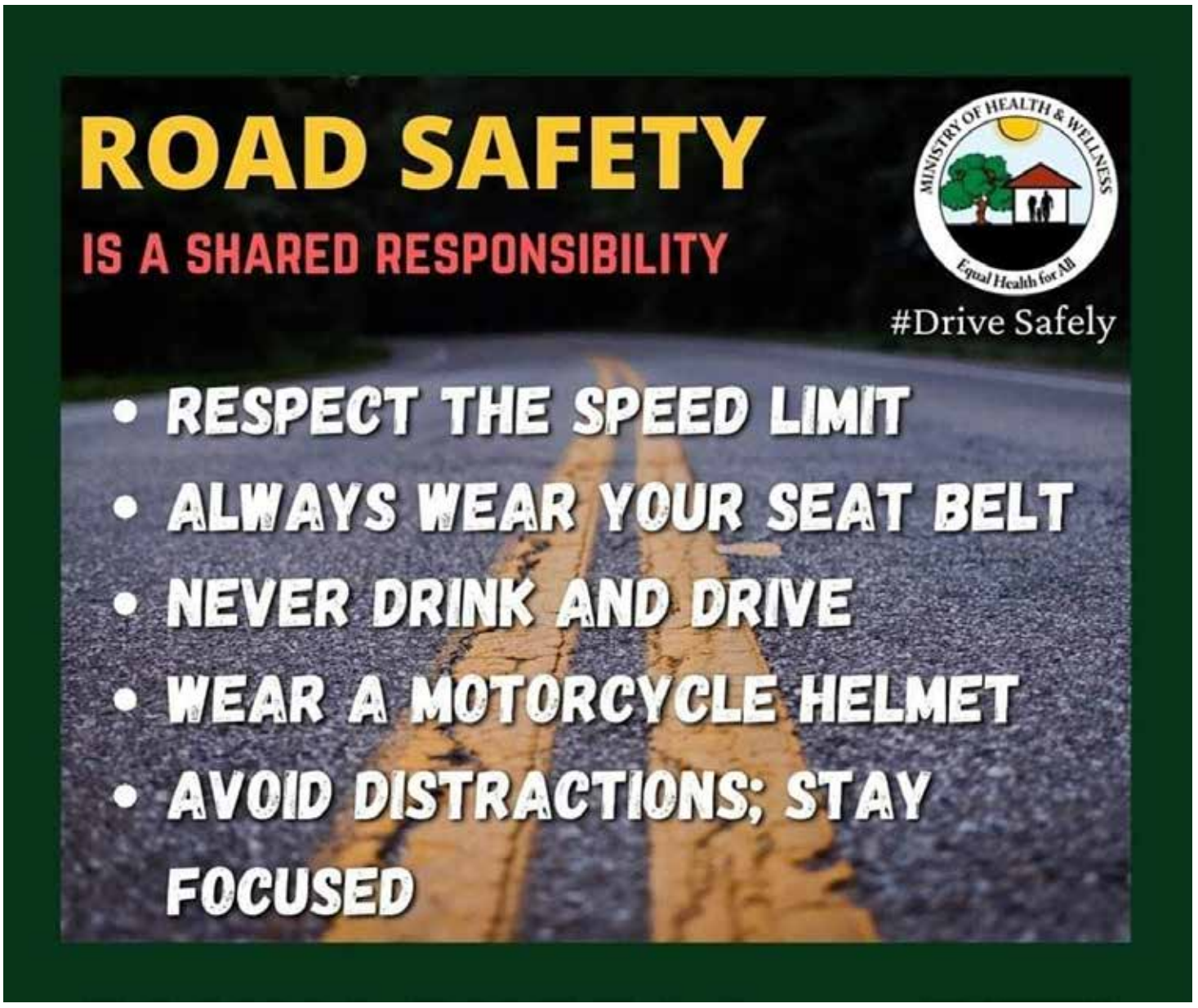
Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
P O Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Examiner In Charge- On-site Examination- Supervision Department

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

Easter Brunch and Board Games
'I AM BELIZE' Scholarship Beneficiaries Enjoying Hosted by RESTORE Belize


ROAD SAFETY
IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS
Equal Health for All
#Drive Safely
• RESPECT THE SPEED LIMIT
• ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT
• NEVER DRINK AND DRIVE
• WEAR A MOTORCYCLE HELMET
• AVOID DISTRACTIONS; STAY FOCUSED

BELIZE AT EXPO 2025 OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN

"ONE BELIZE, ONE PURPOSE: ECOSYSTEMS FOR LIFE"

The Government of Belize is pleased to announce its participation in the Expo 2025, Osaka Kansai, Japan where Belize will showcase a transformative pavilion celebrating the nation's commitment to sustainable development, cultural heritage, and economic growth.

The Belize Pavilion will offer visitors an immersive journey through the country's diverse landscape, from its pristine Caribbean waters to its lush rainforests. Through interactive exhibits and multimedia presentations, visitors will experience firsthand how Belize balances environmental preservation with economic prosperity.

"Our pavilion represents Belize's vision of harmonious coexistence between nature and human development," said Ishmael Quiroz, Commissioner General for Belize. "We're excited to share our story of sustainable growth and cultural richness with the world."

Highlights of the Belize Pavilion will include:

- Replicas of ancient Maya artifacts, including a 3D print of the Jade Head, the largest jade object found in Mesoamerica
- Interactive displays of the Belize Barrier Reef ecosystem
- Cultural performances featuring traditional music and dance
- Showcase of "Made in Belize" products highlighting the country's key industries

The pavilion will also spotlight Belize's emerging investment opportunities across various sectors, including sustainable tourism, agri-business, renewable energy, and global digital services. Visitors will learn about Belize's commitment to environmental stewardship through initiatives executed by the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit, which coordinates vital marine conservation efforts while supporting the blue economy.

As a nation where English is the official language and diverse cultures thrive together, Belize's participation in Expo 2025 represents an opportunity to showcase its unique position as a bridge between Central America and the Caribbean.

Representatives from BELTRAIDE, the Belize Tourism Board and the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit will be participating at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan which runs from April 13 to October 13, 2025. The Belize Pavilion welcomes visitors to experience the country's rich heritage and promising future firsthand.

Learn more about Belize's participation in Expo 2025 Osaka, Japan by visiting.(release)

PEN-FRIENDS WANTED:

Switzerland friend interested in Belize, looking for Belizean pen-friends. Please write in English or German to the following address:

Vitus Castelberg
Aspermonststr 19
CH-7000 CHUR
Switzerland (Europe)

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

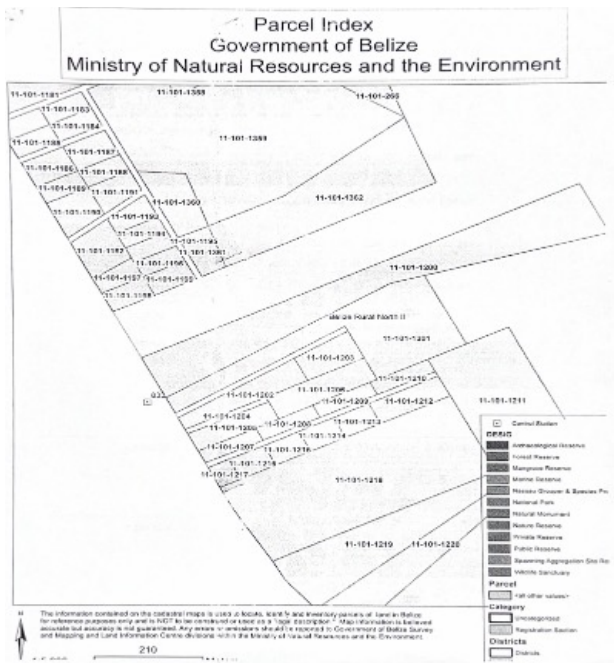
BY ORDER OF THE CHARGEE HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED, a Licensed Public Auctioneer will sell on site the following property at the time as listed.

At Parcel 1201 Biscayne Village, Belize District on Friday, April 25, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land comprising 5.323 Hectare(s) being Parcel 1201, Block 11 in the Belize Rural North II Registration Section situate in the Biscayne Village, Belize District, Belize TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **JING FENG LEE**.

DATED this 7th day of April 2025

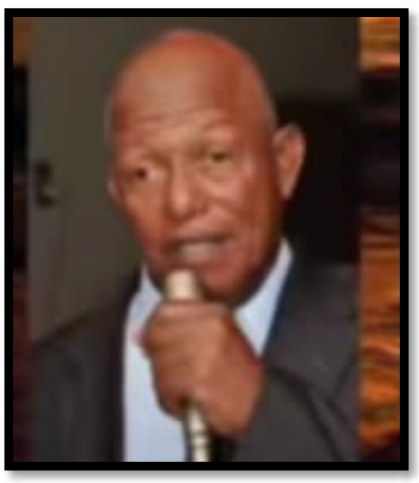


All sales are strictly cash and deemed final. For more information contact:

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED
1 HYDE'S LANE, BELIZE CITY, BELIZE
Phone: (501) 280-5644
Fax: (501) 223-0738
E-mail: foreclosures@hrcubelize.org

Eulogy for Henry "Henno" Linares, Sr.

Read by Henry "Butch" Linares, Jr.
Submitted by Hon. Gilroy Usher



Henry Joseph Linares Sr. was born on January 20, 1942, in Monkey River Town to proud parents, Ethel Williams and Octavio Linares Sr. Henry, affectionately known to his loved ones as "Heno", "Super Cat", "Mista Len", or "Sweet Hen", was the oldest son in the family. At a very young age, the family moved to Mango Creek, where he spent his formative years, in search of a better life. The family later moved to Belize City when he was in his late teens.

This move would forever change the course of the rest of young Henry's life.

Not long after, he met and married the love of his life, Mrs Elma Linares Nee Young. The couple would remain married up until her untimely death in 2009; This union would produce several children. Henry spent most of his adult life working at the Public Works Department, as it was known then, first at a Heavy Equipment Operator, then as a Road Foreman. After his retirement in 2005, he and his wife spent most of their time helping to raise their grandchildren along with other children from the neighbourhood. Their home was a safe space to many.

Not long after his wife's untimely passing, Henry began battling various illnesses. He would go on to battle these ailments for years. Living through the pain, he was still always there for the younger generation in the community who saw him as a father figure. They often sought him out for his advice and words of wisdom. Anyone who knew him knows that he was never shy to share his opinion.

A few years ago when the illness became too overwhelming for him, Henry decided that he wanted to return to his beloved hometown. He moved back to Mango Creek, where he would continue to be around family and friends. Even though it was clear that the illness had gotten the better of him, he continued to fight. His unwavering spirit and positive attitude was always on full display. He fought until the end. On Tuesday April 8, 2025 what was coincidentally his wife's birthday, Henry gained his wings.

Grampa, your life was an inspiration to anyone who encountered you, especially your family and friends. Your work is done on earth. We are all very grateful that we were afforded to be with you for so many years. Your legacy will live on Sweet Hen.

Henry is survived by his daughters Marcia, Wendy, and Doraine; sons, Henry Jr., Sheldon Sr., Adrian Sr., Leonard, Cleveland Sr., Denford Sr., and Dane; adopted sons, Kirby Palma and Derrick Gentle. He is also survived by a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, and many family and friends.

"To live in the hearts, we leave behind is not to die." Thomas Campbell

Rest in Peace, until we meet again, Mr. Henry "Henno" Linares, Sr.

LETTER TO THE Editor

Drive Smart, Save Lives

Dear Editor,

As we navigate our daily lives, let us not forget that every time we get behind the wheel, we are responsible for more than just our safety—we are responsible for the lives of every pedestrian, cyclist, and driver we encounter.

Recent traffic incidents across the country are a heartbreaking reminder that we must do better. Too many lives have been lost or forever changed due to speeding, distracted driving, or driving under the influence.

I urge all Belizeans: slow down, obey traffic signs, buckle up, and never drink and drive. If you're tired, pull over. If you've been drinking, call a cab or a friend. No destination is worth a life.

We also call on enforcement authorities to stay vigilant and enforce traffic laws with fairness and consistency. But ultimately, it begins with us—each one of us making the right choice.

Let's protect our loved ones, our communities, and ourselves. Let us make Belize's roads safer for all.

Have a Happy and Blessed Easter!

Sincerely,
Proud Belizean

CALL
280-8385 or
EMAIL:
belizetimesadvertisement@yahoo.com
To place advertisement in the Belize Times Newspaper

BWS

Invitation for Bids

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Belize
Water Supply & Modernization Program
5754/OC-BL
Supply and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment for BWS Network
BL-L1043-P00001

1. The *Belize Water Services Limited has received financing* from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of *Water Supply & Modernization Program* and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for *Supply and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment for BWS Network.*
2. *Belize Water Services Limited* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for *Purchase and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment.*
3. The Request for Bids will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Works and Goods financed by the Inter-American Development Bank, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Policies.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from *Belize Water Services Limited, Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Specialist, rce@bwsl.com.bz;* and inspect the bidding document at the address given below from *8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Belize local time.*
5. Qualifications requirements include *Goods must meet technical specifications, financials, power of attorney and other requirements.* A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically *"shall not",* be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in *English* may be requested by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before *2:00 p.m. Belize local time on May 2nd, 2025*. Electronic bidding *will not* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at *2:15 p.m. Belize local time on May 2nd, 2025*. All bids must be accompanied by a *"Bid Security"* of *10% of bid price per lot* or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
8. The address(es) referred to above is(are):

   Ms. Jahnina Reyes,
   Procurement Specialist,
   Belize Water Services Limited,
   7 Central American Boulevard,
   Belize City, Belize C.A.
   +501-222-4757

TERMS OF REFERENCE MICROSOFT 365 LICENSE PROCUREMENT

Background: The Belize Tax Service (BTS), a department under the Ministry of Finance, is seeking to procure Microsoft 365 licenses to support its digital transformation and ensure secure, collaborative, and efficient service delivery across all units. The licenses are intended to maintain and expand current capabilities under the Government of Belize's standard ICT platform.

Objective: To acquire a one-year subscription of Microsoft 365 licenses tailored to the operational and security needs of BTS, including collaboration tools, project management solutions, security add-ons, and analytics services.

Scope of Work: The successful vendor will be responsible for providing the following services:
- Provisioning and activation of Microsoft 365 licenses listed below.
- Technical support for license provisioning and user onboarding.
- Full license handover to BTS with documentation.
- Resolution of any technical issues during the subscription period.

Technical Specifications:

Item Description	Quantity
Microsoft 365 E5 without Audio Conferencing (No Teams)	230
Microsoft Teams Enterprise	215
Visio Plan 2	12
Planner and Project Plan 3	12
Power BI Pro	5
Microsoft Defender for Office 365 (Plan 1)	5
Office 365 E1 (No Teams)	15

Program of Work: Licenses must be activated and functional within seven (7) business days of contract award.
- The vendor must provide post-deployment support and issue resolution throughout the 12-month contract period.

Subscription Terms: This is a one-year subscription agreement.
- Subscription cannot be suspended or quantities reduced during the active term.
- A 72-hour grace period for cancellation or changes apply, after which changes will incur prorated charges.

Payment Terms: All pricing shall be in Belize dollars and inclusive of GST.

- Upon acceptance of the quotation, the vendor shall be liable for all provisioning and associated costs.
- Final pricing is subject to approval by Belize Tax Service.

Eligibility Criteria: The vendor must be an active Microsoft Cloud Service Provider (CSP) authorized to sell Microsoft licenses in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

- The vendor must have an active membership in the Microsoft Partner Network (MPN).
- The vendor must have successfully delivered at least one (1) Microsoft 365 project of similar size and scope within the past three (3) years.
- The vendor must submit a valid business certificate and be in good standing with Belize Tax Service, Belize Companies Registry, and Belize Social Security Board.
- The vendor must provide two client references related to Microsoft 365 deployments within the last three years.
- The vendor must demonstrate the availability of financial resources or access to credit equivalent to the full contract value.

Evaluation Criteria: Tenders will be evaluated on technical merit and price based on the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weight (%)
Financial Order	50%
Direct technical support from Microsoft	20%
Access to the portal for managing licenses throughout the term of the agreement (1 year)	10%
Service delivery models for issue resolution	10%
Service delivery experience in provisioning and supporting Microsoft 365 for businesses of similar size	5%
Financial strength of the economy demonstrated over the past three (3) years	5%

Language: English
Contact for Clarification: All clarifications regarding this Terms of Reference can be directed to:

Mr. Gabriel Bol
Belize Tax Service
Email: Gabriel.Bol@bts.gov.bz

Submission Deadline: May 23, 2025, by 2:00pm (Belize Time)
All submissions are to be made to:

Michelle Longsworth (Mrs.)
Director General
Belize Tax Service
Eleanor Hall Building
Lake Independence Boulevard
Belize City, Belize
Email: Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz

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